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Douglass Mackey '11, far-right troll, arrested for 2016 election interference

By HATTIE LEFAVOUR
Managing Editor

Douglass Mackey '11, a prominent far-right Twitter troll formerly known by the pseudonym Ricky Vaughn, was arrested by federal prosecutors last Wednesday for perpetrating a meme-based disinformation campaign that tricked more than 4,900 Democrats into believing they could cast ballots for Hillary Clinton via text message in the 2016 election.

Mackey's images, shared on Twitter and Facebook, featured the hashtags #GoHillary and #ImWithHer and read "Avoid the Line. Vote from Home. Text 'Hillary' to 59925." In the months before the election, Mackey also participated in Twitter and Facebook meme campaigns aimed at convincing Democrats that they could vote by hashtag and that Clinton was promoting a "Draft our Daughters" plan to make women eligible for the draft, among others. His campaigns often specifically targeted Black and Latino voters , with many messages written in Spanish or reading "African Americans for Hillary."

Leading up to the 2016 election,

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'It feels like a ghost town': 46 students remain on campus for J-Term

By ABIGAIL CHANG
News Editor

With J-Term classes fully remote, nearly all on-campus students departed for winter break in November, many planning to return in February for the start of spring semester. But the pandemic made travel and lodging options few and far between for some students, while others needed on-campus resources to complete research and thesis work.

Twenty-three students remained on campus for the end of fall semester and winter break, and another 34 were scheduled to arrive for J-Term, according to a Dec. 16 announcement. As of this week, only 46 students are living on campus, according to Associate Dean of Student Life AJ Place.

Pre-pandemic J-Terms promised a reprieve from traditional classwork, an increase in social time and a plethora of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. But even for those who are in the typical Vermont setting, the term is far from the activity-filled month of years past. Many students are currently the sole resident of their campus housing.

"It feels like there is no one here. It feels like a ghost town," said Jack Friedman '21, an architectural studies major. He is living on campus to work on his thesis, for which he needs access to an architectural studio.

As in the fall, students who came to campus for J-Term undertook a 14-day pre-arrival quarantine and

COURTESY PHOTOS

With so few students on campus this winter, many believe they are the only resident in their campus housing.

Day Zero and Day Seven testing. A Jan. 8 email from Dean of Students Derek Doucet also noted that students would not be allowed to return unless they had received a flu vaccine.

According to Friedman, on-campus public health protocol has remained the same as the previous semester — at least for the students

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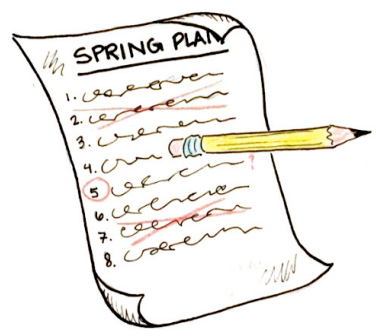
College sunsets phased reopening model, go/snitch amid Covid-19 policy changes

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Staff Writer

The college will replace its three-phase model for relaxing safety restrictions and eliminate its Covid-19 violations reporting form. These changes are among a new set of Covid-19 policies and procedures for the spring outlined by the college, which also include additions of indoor and outdoor spaces, changes to meal delivery during



SARAH FAGAN

room quarantine and new means of communicating health guidelines.

Insted of distinguishing specific phases, the college will outline permissions on a weekly basis.

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LUCY TOWNEND/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

In-person voting before the Covid-19 pandemic allowed for townspeople to debate policies and offer amendments to measures on the ballot.

Departing from tradition, Middlebury to use mail-in voting for Town Meeting Day

By AIDAN WERTZ
Contributing Writer

Following a decision by the Vermont legislature to allow mail-in voting for town meetings, Middlebury has decided to skip the annual in-person meeting and vote on all measures by ballot. The move, a response to growing Covid-19 cases, changes the nature of Vermont municipal politics for the time being.

Vermont's annual town meeting stands as a revered New England tradition and a modern-day reminder of what direct democracy can look like. Many Middlebury residents treasure the "floor meeting" in particular, where hundreds of residents gather to debate and vote on policies concerning the town.

It is usually community-oriented, discussion-centered and — above all — in-person. During a typical year, Middlebury holds its floor meeting the night before Vermont's Town Meeting Day, which falls on the first Tuesday of every March. The town's annual budget is the largest item of the night, but other municipal matters are discussed as well. On the following day, additional measures are decided by paper ballot, including the election of town officials.

This year, however, the town will vote on all measures solely by Australian ballot, the typical secret ballot that is used in U.S. elections.

Jim Douglas '72, the former governor of Vermont, noted that the floor meeting offers a unique forum for amendments and explanation. Douglas moderated the floor debate in Middlebury for 33 years before retiring in 2019.

"It is pure democracy. Everyone is a legislator for a day and has an equal voice in the affairs of the community," he said in an interview with The Campus, reflecting on the change to mail-in voting.

"Now there is no opportunity for amendments," he said. "Generally, when the budget is up for debate, someone can motion to change it. On the ballot, it will pass or be re-

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SPORTS

Men's alpine ski champion Hig Roberts '14, first to come out as gay, blazes trail for next generation

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Staff Writer

"I just woke up one morning, and I said, 'Enough is enough,'" Hig Roberts '14 told The New York Times in December 2020.

Roberts, who skied on the alpine team at Middlebury and led an accomplished professional skiing career, came out as gay in an interview last year with The Times — the first men's alpine skiing champion to do so.

He had made 31 starts in the World Cup from 2015–19 and won two giant slalom national titles on the U.S. ski team. But Roberts said hiding part of his identity had held him back.

"Not being able to be who I am and not being able to be openly gay as a professional athlete was truly hindering my performance," Roberts said in the interview.

Now, Roberts is hoping to lead by example and show younger generations of skiers that sexuality is not a limitation to athletic success.

A Steamboat Springs, Co. native, Roberts grew up immersed in a vibrant skiing culture. He first threw on a pair of skis at two years old, not long after learning to walk. From a young age, Roberts' talent was clear, and, by age nine, he signed up for his first major competition. That opportunity was thwarted, though, due to a femur injury he suffered before the event. It was an injury that doctors thought would prevent him from skiing again, but with the help of a risky surgery, Roberts got back on his feet and continued to compete.

As Roberts aged, he discovered that alpine skiing was, by reputation, a very masculine sport. He didn't identify with that status quo, he said, which disconnected him from his teammates and deterred him from coming out publicly.

"I realized I was different from my teammates, and I think they realized it too even if they weren't

COURTESY PHOTO

Hig Roberts '14 competed for the Panthers before heading to the professional ranks.

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COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

SPORTS

Stephen Hauschka's '07, who charted unlikely course to the NFL, departs league after 13 seasons

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

After 13 seasons in the NFL, Stephen Hauschka '07 is hanging up his boots.

The Needham, Mass. native departs the NFL with an impressive legacy, marked by a Super Bowl win with the Seahawks in 2014 and a career field goal accuracy of 85.2%. But when his achievements are put against the backdrop of his unorthodox beginnings, they become all the more impressive.

Hauschka enrolled at Middlebury in 2003 with the aspiration of playing varsity soccer, but that dream never panned out. Instead, he joined the junior varsity soccer team and played lacrosse. Football wasn't in the picture — it had never been — but once Hauschka arrived at school, the sport surrounded him. His freshman roommate, Scott Secor, was a member of the football team, and Scott's teammates frequented their dorm room in Battell Hall.

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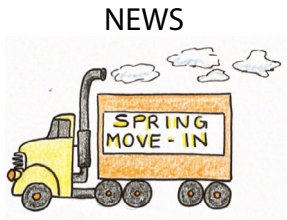
NEWS



College consolidates spring arrival period, anticipating worse Covid conditions
By SARAH MILLER

Karen Miller, former VP of Human Resources, departs Middlebury
By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN

LOCAL

The One Dollar Market and its iconic owner celebrate 25 years in Middlebury
By GUILIA SHAUGHNESSY

Better Middlebury Partnership and Neighbors Together aid community distressed by pandemic
By ACADIA KLEPEIS

Burlington High School will relocate to old Macy's store in wake of toxic chemical closure
By MAGGIE REYNOLDS

ARTS & CULTURE

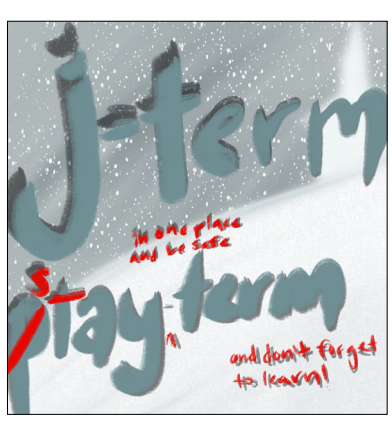
All Online: A J-Term course uncovers online extremism
By CHARLIE DEICHMAN-CASWELL

"The Queen's Gambit": Walter Tevis' fiery chess novel
By JOHN VAALER

Cho-liang Lin brings intensity and vibrancy to Performing Arts Series
By NINA NG

"Writing the Body": Moving together, apart, in a J-Term dance class
By SUMMER HORNBOSTEL

OPINION



J-term, play-it-safe term
By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

SPORTS

Siefer's Scoop Ep. 10: Delanie Goniwiecha '23, Women's Hockey
By BLAISE SIEFER